

## CLAIMS

*3/B* 1. Use of an essentially impermeable transfer belt  
5 (16) for a soft tissue paper machine for conducting a  
soft tissue web (1) through a shoe press nip in the press  
section of the paper machine, and from the shoe press nip  
to a Yankee cylinder (5) in the dryer section of the  
10 paper machine in a closed draw, which Yankee cylinder  
forms, together with a transfer means (17), a transfer  
nip transferring the soft tissue web from the transfer  
belt to the Yankee cylinder, the transfer belt comprising  
a carrier and an elastically compressible polymer layer  
15 on its side facing the paper web, the polymer layer hav-  
ing a hardness between 50 and 97 Shore A and having a  
web-contacting surface which has a pressure-sensitive  
resettable degree of roughness, the web-contacting sur-  
face having a degree of roughness in a non-compressed  
state of  $R_z = 2-80 \mu\text{m}$ , measured according to ISO 4287,  
20 Part I, and a lower degree of roughness of  $R_z = 0-20 \mu\text{m}$   
when the polymer layer is compressed by a linear load of  
20-220 kN/m applied to the essentially impermeable trans-  
fer belt as measured in a non-extended press nip.

2. Use as claimed in claim 1, c h a r a c t e r -  
25 i s e d in that the essentially impermeable trans-  
fer belt (16) has an air permeability of less than  
 $6 \text{ m}^3/\text{m}^2/\text{min}$ , measured according to the method stated in  
"Standard Test Method for Air Permeability of Textile  
Fabrics, ASTM D 737-75, American Society of Testing and  
30 Materials".

*a* 3. Use as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ c h a r a c -  
t e r i s e d in that the polymer layer comprises a  
polymer composition such as acryl polymer resin, poly-  
urethane polymer resin and polyurethane/polycarbonate  
35 polymer resin composition.

*a* 4. Use as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ *claim 1*  
c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that the polymer layer com-

prises a particulate filler which has a hardness different from that of the polymer composition, such as kaolin clay, polymer material or metal, preferably stainless steel.

5            5. Use as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-4,~~  
c h a r a c t e r i s e d   i n   t h a t   t h e   p o l y m e r   l a y e r   c o m -  
p l e t e l y   e n c l o s e s   t h e   c a r r i e r .

a 6. Use as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-5,~~ <sup>claim 1</sup>  
characterised in that the carrier is endless.

a 10 7. Use as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-5,~~  
characterised in that the polymer layer is  
embossed to produce embossed soft tissue.

8. Use as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1-7~~<sup>claim 1</sup>, together with a transfer means which consists of the transfer belt (16) itself, which runs round a predetermined part of the Yankee cylinder (5) to form an extended transfer nip.